

Docket JP920000198US1

Appl. No.: 09/649,738
Filed: August 28, 2000IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the following amendments:

1. (currently amended) ~~In a~~ A computing system consisting of a processor, memory storage, input and output devices, a network interface adapter and a basic input/output system (BIOS) for booting, said system being connected to a remote email server, characterized ~~in that said BIOS includes~~ comprising:
 - a processor;
 - memory storage;
 - input and output devices;
 - a network interface adapter for connecting the computing system to a remote email server via a network; and
 - a basic input/output system (BIOS) for booting the computing system, wherein the BIOS includes:
 - ~~a communicating means to communicate~~ for communicating with the network adapter, wherein the communicating means a means to accesses the said remote email server through the network during the boot up process booting of the computer system using said network adapter; a means to download and downloads, the email count during the booting of the computing system, for the current user email headers from the remote email server on said network; and
 - means for parsing the email headers during the booting of the computing system to extract an email count for a user; and
 - ~~a means to display the email count during the booting of the computer system for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.~~
2. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication with said remote email server is through TCP/IP protocol.

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3. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising configuration means for configuring ~~the designated users of the system during a previous system~~ certain operation prior to the booting of the computing system.
4. (currently amended) In a computing system including a display, a network adapter and a basic input/output system (BIOS) connected to a remote email server through a network, a method for accessing email count during ~~the boot up process~~ booting of the computer system, the method comprising:
 - booting the computing system by the BIOS:
 - communicating with the network adapter, wherein the communicating includes — accessing the network during the boot up booting of the computer system by the BIOS using said network adapter; and downloading, by the BIOS during the booting of the computer system, the email count for the user email headers from the remote email server on said network; and
 - parsing the email headers, by the BIOS during the booting of the computer system, to extract an email count for a user; and
 - displaying, by the BIOS during the booting of the computer system, the email count for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.
5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the communication with said remote email server is through TCP/IP protocol.
6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising configuring ~~the designated users of the system during a previous~~ certain operation prior to the booting of the computing system.
7. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising computer readable program code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied therein for causing a ~~computer computing system~~ to access an email count during booting of the computing system, the boot up process, said computer program code comprising:

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basic input/output system (BIOS) computer readable program code means configured for performing booting the computing system, wherein the BIOS computer readable program code means includes:

- computer readable program code means configured for communicating with ~~a the~~ network adapter, ~~wherein the communicating includes~~ computer readable program code means configured for accessing ~~a said~~ remote email server through ~~a network~~ during the booting of the computing system boot-up process using said network adapter; ~~computer readable program code means configured for and downloading, during the booting of the computing system, the email count for the current user~~ email headers from the remote email server on said network; and

computer readable program code means configured for parsing the email headers during the booting of the computing system to extract an email count for a user; and

- computer readable program code means configured for displaying, during the booting of the computing system, the email count for the ~~current~~ user in a defined format on ~~a the~~ display of said computing system.

8. (currently amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 7 wherein said computer readable program code means is configured for communicating with the network adapter through ~~the a~~ TCP/IP protocol.
9. (currently amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1 further comprising computer readable program code means for configuring ~~the designated~~ users of the system during a ~~previous system~~ certain operation prior to the booting of the computing system.